MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

I. CONVENE, Room 7000, Interior Department Building.

A regular monthly meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on November 19, 1969. The members met, pursuant to notice, in executive session at 10:00 a.m. with William Walton, Chairman, presiding.

Present were: William Walton
Gordon Bunshaft
Aline Saarinen
Chloethiel Woodard Smith
John Walker

Staff: Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
Daniel D. Reiff

Reporter: Mrs. L.M. Vialpando

II. ADMINISTRATION

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 21 January, 1970, was approved as the date of the next meeting.

III. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

1. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

a. White House - Proposed Modifications to West Terrace

No objection to modifying window openings adjacent to swimming pool. Disapproved connecting vestibule to west wing, recommending circulation be internal.

b. Federal Triangle - Proposed Development Plans; Treatment of Old Post Office Tower and Great Plaza

Approved principle of completing design of Federal Triangle in style and manner originally conceived, including removal of Old Post Office and its tower. Recommended further study of Great Plaza parking scheme and landscaping, with special emphasis on access ramps to underground garage.

c. South Portal Building, 3rd and Independence Avenue - Material Samples

Approved.

2. Department of the Interior

National Visitors Center - Proposed Modifications to Union Station; also Area Studies for Eisenhower National Memorial and Convention Center

Accepted general treatment of exhibitions in Station Building, but disapproved design of parking garage to rear. Especially critical of lack of access.

3. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Shiptstead-Luce Act

a. American Institute of Architects Headquarters Building, New York Avenue and 18th Street, N.W. - Preliminary Discussions of Proposed Design

Reaction generally favorable to design approach involving plans for whole block with others such as Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Recommended continued study along same lines.

b. Appendix 1

Approved.

Old Georgetown Act

a. 1070 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W. - Proposed Design for 4-Story Office Building.

Disapproved. Returned for further study, reducing mass and relating scale to surrounding buildings.

b. Appendix 2

Approved.

4. D.C. Redevelopment Land Agency

Columbia Plaza Office Building, 24th and E Streets, N.W. - Revised Design

Approved revised massing and site plans, with exception of area where curvilinear building at terrace level joined high rise. Recommended further study of this feature.

5. D.C. Government, Department of General Services, Bureau of Design and Engineering

Brookland Elementary School, Michigan Avenue and Randolph Street, N.W. - Revised Design.

Disapproved. Recommend fresh start on entire planning and design.

6. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Electrical Station and Vent Shaft, Virginia Avenue and 23rd Street, N.W. - Proposed Design.

Approved.

7. U.S. Army, Institute of Heraldry

a. Defense Intelligence Agency Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service

Disapproved.

b. Coast Guard Auxiliary Medals for:

(1) Five Year Service

(2) Commendation

Approved.

8. Treasury Department

Eisenhower Dollar - Confirmation of Action

Confirmed approval.

III. INTERVIEWS

1. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

a. White House - Proposed Modifications to West Terrace

Mr. Thurman Davis, GSA, attended the meeting. The Transcript is attached.

b. Federal Triangle - Proposed Development Plans; Treatment of Old Post Office Tower and Great Plaza

Mr. Vincent Kling, architect, attended. The transcript is attached.

c. South Portal Building, 3rd and Independence Avenue - Material Samples

GSA was notified of prior approval - no interview.

2. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Shipstead-Luce Act

American Institute of Architects Headquarters Building, New York Avenue and 18th Street, N.W. - Preliminary Discussion of Proposed Design

Mr. Max Urbahn accompanied by William Scheick, Russ Deeter, Norman Fletcher, Howard Elkins, and Max Brooks, attended the meeting. Transcript attached.

3. Department of the Interior

National Visitors Center - Proposed Modifications to Union Station

Mr. Auerbach, architect, attended. Transcript attached.

4. D.C. Redevelopment Land Agency

Columbia Plaza Office Building, 24th and E Streets, N.W. - Revised Design

Discussed request for further study of details.

5. D.C. Government, Department of General Services, Bureau of Design and Engineering

Brookland Elementary School, Michigan Avenue and Randolph Streets, N.E. - Revised Design

Mr. Carl Ruppert, architect, attended. Simply requested architect to start over.

6. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Electrical Station and Vent Shaft, Virginia Avenue and 23rd Street, N.W. - Proposed Design

Prior approval.

7. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Old Georgetown Act

19 November, 1969

1070 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W. - Proposed Design for 4-Story Office Building

Mr. Szoradi, architect, attended. Discussed criticism of general massing and scale. Architects agreed to restudy.

Signed,

Charles H. Atherton

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Secretary